OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR OF SOCIETIES
13 OCT 1915

Madras Young Men

Fortnightly Bulletin

Young Men's Christian Association, Madras

129

Vol. II, No. 15 OCTOBER 1, 1915 Reg. M. 1145

"None preaches better than the ant, and she says nothing."
—*Franklin.*

SCHEDULE

1915

October 1.
" 2. 8 A.M. Class in Boxing. Gymnasium.
" 3. **4 p.m. Men's Meeting. Memorial Hall. G. S. Eddy, Esq., M.A.**
" 4. Michaelmas Holidays. Y.M.C.A. School of Commerce.
" 5. Do. do.
" " 5-30 P.M. Class in Wrestling. Terrace.
" 6. 4-30 P.M. Boys' Branch. Character Study Class A.
" 7. 5 P.M. Royapettah Branch. Inaugural Address. Literary Union.
" 8. Royapettah Branch. "At Home." Mrs. M. D. Devadoss.
" 9. 8 A.M. Class in Boxing. Gymnasium.
" " 3 P.M. Boys' Branch. Hobbies Exhibition.
" 10. 4 P.M. Men's Meeting. Auditorium.
" 11. 4-30 P.M. Boys' Branch. Sub-Junior Bible Class. Leader: R. S. Michael, Esq., B.A.
" 12. 4-30 P.M. Boys' Branch. Character Study Class B. Leader: J. E. Frohlich, Esq.
" " 5-30 P.M. Class in Wrestling. Terrace.
" 13. 4-30 P.M. Boys' Branch. Character Study Class A.
" " 6-30 P.M. Royapettah Branch. Lantern Lecture—Stages of Aircraft. By Henry Davadoss, Esq., B.A., L.T.

A Special Invitation

We would call the attention of our members to a notice about the Hobbies Exhibition that appears elsewhere under the Boys' Branch activities. The boys prepare for it very enthusiastically and make us expect a really good time on October 9th. Since we hope that our senior members will enjoy it, we invite them with confidence that the time spent that afternoon will be worth while. Admissions are to be by tickets costing only two annas each.

The Madras Christian Convention

Mr. G. S. Eddy, International Y. M. C. A. Secretary for Asia, who visited Madras in 1912 along with Dr. John R. Mott, has recently returned from China, where he held a series of meetings for students and officials of all classes. During his stay in Madras from October 2 to 5, he will hold special meetings for Indian Christians in the Memorial Hall in connection with the above Convention and under the auspices of the South India United Church. He will be assisted by Dr. J. E. Tracey of Madura, Rev. B. C. Sircar of the Indian National Council of the Y. M. C. A., and Dr. Glover of Cambridge. A complete programme of these meetings can be had at our office.

A few interesting facts about Mr. Eddy's visit to China in 1914-5.

He visited 13 capital cities holding meetings exclusively for students, merchants and ruling classes. The average attendance was 3,000 every night: 9,000 enrolled as permanent members of Bible Classes; 18,000 bought Gospels and promised to read them. In Pekin Mr. Eddy was greeted by the President of the Chinese Republic, invited to lunch, and delivered an Address on Christianity in the house of the Vice-President; the Minister of the Interior gave him a site for a mission pavilion opposite the sacred palace; another Minister presented 500 pounds sterling to make the pavilion rainproof. The total attendance in three months was 63,000 of the upper and educated classes of China and an enrolment in Bible classes of 18,000 men.

The Employed Men

We feel that somehow the Madras Association is not serving the employed men as it might. The general impression in Madras is apparently that the Y. M. C. A. is for students only. This, of course, is far from true, as the aim of the Y. M. C. A. is to serve *young men*, whatever they may be. The student, it is true, has more leisure time, perhaps more spending money and if he has a family it is not usually with him in Madras. The employed man, on the other hand, has sometime to work late hours and has usually heavy family responsibilities. But this does not mean that the employed men must neglect their body, mind, and spirit and allow them to go to waste without due attention to their development. If this is recognized we would like to know from our members who are employed men what they really desire in recreation, reading and social activities. The following statement made recently by a young man four years out of College, encourages us to think that the Madras Y.M.C.A. is able to serve the employed men to their great advantage: his testimony was something to this effect. "I have been in office four years. During this period I have lost any desire to read good books. I have had no social life and made few friends worth while,

have taken no exercise and was physically unfit to do my best work; in short, my influence for good had been *nil*. About a year ago very reluctantly I joined the Y.M.C.A. because a friend of mine urged me to do so. Since then I have found many good friends, enjoyed social life, have renewed my reading, am taking regular exercise with a joyous feeling that living is worthwhile." How can this helpful influence be extended to many other young men who are settling into the rut of the routine office duties?

Membership Activities

Those of our members who attended the Social held on the 7th September will remember that a card containing the different activities of the Y. M. C. A. was circulated and every member was asked to sign it indicating the three items in which he is specially interested. Thus we have a few cards signed by the members: but some others have not yet filled in the card. Soon after the Michaelmas holidays we mean sending the cards to those who have not yet had an opportunity of signing them. We are anxious that every one of our members should indicate the items in which they are interested so that when any announcements are to be made they may be sent to those who are specially concerned in them. Moreover, we want to start a few activities in case at least a dozen of our members are secured to take part in each of them regularly. Among these will be included classes in French, Hindustani, First Aid to the Injured, Photography, Music, Social Service, and Co-operative Credit Society. Those who want to join any of these classes are requested to give their names without delay to the Membership Secretary.

We are glad to announce that classes in wrestling are going on fairly well. Sand has been spread on the Y. M. C. A. terrace and it seems an ideal place for wrestling. Mr. Padmanaba Rao is to be congratulated for his enthusiasm in conducting the class and for his mastery of the art. Every one who attends his class enjoys it immensely.

Boxing Class

The new class in Boxing that has been started by the Association began work on Saturday, September 25. The crowded activities of the week and the extensive physical programme on the athletic field have made it necessary to hold the class in the morning, in order to avoid conflicts with the other sports. The interest in the art of self-defence was most evident, and the need of such a class equally so. There were about twenty men out last Saturday. Mr. Percy F. Don, a visitor frcm Ceylon, and one who has had experience in the fistic art, proved to be the factor of interest at this the initial meeting of the class. Until the duties that have crowded upon Mr. M. Quayle, who has consented to assume the leader-

ship of the class, have lessened a little, Mr. R. D. Michael, his sparring partner, has kindly consented to give the members a few pointers. It is to be hoped that Mr. Quayle will find it possible to take up the class in the near future and give the members the advantage of his extensive experience in Boxing. All who are interested are urged to be present every Saturday morning at 8 o'clock.

BASKET-BALL

Basket-ball has been very popular during the last few days on the Y. M. C. A. Athletic Park, and a large number have participated. The men and boys are entering into it with unusual vigour and enthusiasm. Some already are getting to handle the ball very well and to carry it down the field on successful dribbles. Probably there are few games that can be made so vigorous and strenuous as basket-ball and the training to the eye, lungs, brain and every muscle of the body are invaluable. The days set apart for the Seniors to play basket-ball are Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, alternating with the Juniors on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. When not playing basket-ball, both Juniors and Seniors will be at football, thus ensuring "Something doing" all the time for both divisions. The new members are especially urged to be present and partake of these privileges, to which their membership in the Association entitles them.

OPEN AIR SPORTS ON THE TERRACE

The Indoor Games Committee decided some time ago upon having Indoor Sports in the building once a fortnight. Accordingly, on the 24th September, a programme of sports was arranged on the terrace. Over thirty took part in the several events, in addition to those who were spectators. We finished the sports with some Indian games such as Hop-a-lap chase, Balichaplan, and Wrestling. We believe more of our members will take part in these open-air sports if they know what keen enjoyment it gives.

THE EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE

This Committee met on the 16th September and have made some very valuable suggestions. They have appointed a small committee to look through the books in the Library and throw out antiquated and unnecessary books. After this is done the Educational Committee will undertake with the help of others to add new books to the library with the present year's grant of the Association to the library. The Committee has also revised the rules of the Reading Room. Special clauses have been inserted against improper use of the rooms and the papers and the magazines.

Public Lectures on the "Most Eminent Indians" series will be arranged by the committee during the coming months. The first lecture will be on "The Ancient Indian Poets", to come

off about the middle of October.

A RETREAT TO THE SEVEN PAGODAS

A few Christian members of our Association spent the 25th and 26th September at Mahabalipuram, otherwise known as The Seven Pagodas. The object of the Retreat was to secure some quiet time in prayer and devotion. The idea of the retreat arose on account of the postponement of the Student Camp, usually held during the Michaelmas holidays. The Seven Pagodas Retreat served the purpose also of preparing for the coming camp in January next.

TWO GOOD BOOKS

Some of our members may be aware of the fact that Mr. J. N. Farquhar, Literary Secretary of the Indian National Council, Y.M.C.A. is editing, in collaboration with Dr. Griswold a new series of books entitled "The Religious Quest of India." "Indian Theism" by Dr. Macnicol and "The Heart of Jainism" are the first two books in the Series and our members are sure to find them interesting and well worth careful reading. They have been added to our Library recently.

There are other books in preparation, of which one is "The Vedanta" by Professor Hogg.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Some of our members who joined in the Membership Canvass have been admitted on a concession. They paid only one half of their membership fee on condition that they would pay the balance amount within a month from the date of joining. We request those in arrears to pay up their dues at an early date.

BOYS' BRANCH
EXCURSION TO ENNORE

The boys spent a most enjoyable time at Ennore on Saturday, the 18th September. Nearly thirty boys under the leadership of the Boys' Secretary and four other Secretaries boarded the previous night one of those huge boats which sail on the Buckingham Canal. The boys were in high spirits for sometime after they got into the boat—only to be damped somewhat by the heavy rains which came on. The inconvenience caused by the innumerable leaks in the roof of the boat increased the fun and nobody grudged the want of sleep that night. After a good deal of persuasion, threats, and pranks, the boatmen took us early in the morning to Ennore. The boys are the most careful users of time—at least when they are out on excursions. The few hours spent at Ennore were crowded with Football, some form of Basketball, boating, swimming, fishing, and during spare time Indoor games such as Wordbuilding, chess, draughts, etc. To reach home in time in order to save unnecessary anxiety on the part of parents, we left Ennore quite early in the afternoon. The time we had to stay in the boat was well used

by a very interesting impromptu concert by the boys. Mr. Heinrichs, one of the Secretaries, gave a pleasant talk on the importance of taking care of the body, which was well appreciated by the youngsters. In the cool of the evening one and all of us got up on the roof of the boat. It was very pleasant to be there, specially when some interesting games like, "Jerusalem and Jericho" or "Good angel and bad angel" were going on. Just about dark we landed in the Basin Bridge ghat, after exhausting all our energies in cheering as many people as we could think of. Every one hurried home to relate their adventures to their parents and with a hearty wish to have more of such happy days.

HOBBIES EXHIBITION

The Hobbies Exhibition for this year will be held on October 9th, beginning from 3 P.M. The exhibition proper will have the following stalls:—1. Picture post-cards and pictures, 2. Albums and Coins, 3. Paintings and Drawings, 4. Models and curios, 5. Fancy works and collections of humorous stories, 6. Pet animals and birds. Prizes and medals are to be awarded to successful exhibitors. In addition to the exhibition there will be a boys' fair containing fish-ponds and lucky dips. During the exhibition and fair, there will be special music and display by the boys in Fancy Costume. Later in the evening between 5-30 and 6-30 P.M. the members of the Branch will entertain their parents, for which an interesting programme is being got ready. Every member is therefore requested to bring all his relatives to the tamasha.

THE ROYAPETTAH BRANCH

This Branch has now more than seventy senior members and forty juniors. It has done well in imitating the Central Branch by appointing new committees to look after the different activities to serve the larger constituency. The religious sub-committee consisting of Messrs. J. Krishnasamy, P. Asirvatham, and E. Thomas met on the 16th September, and have decided upon arranging fortnightly meetings for religious discussions, and a character study class for the juniors. The Athletic Committee has apportioned the different games among its members. Thus Mr. Jabel is to organise the Badminton Club, Mr. D. V. Raja will be in charge of Hockey, while Mr. J. Krishnasamy has been elected the Secretary of the Tennis Club. In addition to the court that is being used a second court will be opened provided a dozen tennis players could be got. The subscription is Re. One per mensem.

The Indoor games and Social Committee, of which Messrs. W. Zacheus, Gopalakrishnan, and N. V. Nagabushana Rao are members, have already succeeded in arranging an "At Home." The Literary and Membership Committee consisting of Messrs. T. Ratnavelu, M.A. Ghatala, and G.S. Lamech will arrange public lectures once in a while.

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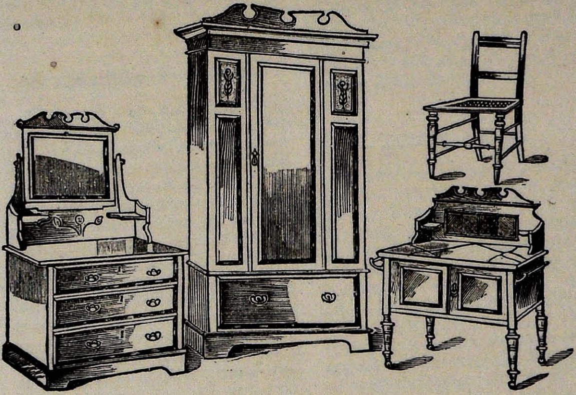

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